

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division, Air Protection Branch

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April 2003

Rev: 3 (04-16-03)

Open Burning Ban May through September Atlanta Ozone Nonattainment Area and Surrounding Areas

FACT SHEET

Why Is The Ban Needed?

In Atlanta, during the summer months, the ozone in the air we breathe can reach unhealthy levels. Ozone is formed when volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides coming from manmade and natural sources react in the presence of sunlight. A major source of these pollutants is the burning of fuels and other combustible materials. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has identified open burning as a significant contributor of the pollutants that form ozone. Therefore, open burning in metro Atlanta and the surrounding areas must be restricted during the summer months.

Where and When Does the Ban Apply?

The ban covers the 13 counties that comprise the Atlanta Ozone Nonattainment Area and 32 counties that surround the Ozone Nonattainment Area. The counties subject to the ban include: Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gordon, Gwinnett, Hall, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Lumpkin, Madison, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Putnam, Rockdale, Spalding, Troup, Upson and Walton.

The burn ban is in effect in the 45 counties from May 1 through September 30 each year.

What Types of Open Burning Are Banned?

Some types of open burning have always been prohibited by the Georgia Rules for Air Quality Control. This ban prohibits several additional types of burning during the ozone season as follows.

These additional types of Open Burning are prohibited:

- ▶ Burning of leaves, tree limbs, or other yard wastes.
- ▶ Burning of vegetative waste from land clearing (includes a ban on the use of air curtain destructors).
- ▶ Burning over of forest land by the owners of the land, with the following exception:
Prescribed burning of forest land is allowed in the following 26 counties: Banks, Barrow, Butts, Chattooga, Clarke, Dawson, Floyd, Gordon, Haralson, Heard, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Lumpkin, Madison, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Oconee, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Putnam, Troup, and Upson.

A few types of open fires are still allowed provided there are no local ordinances that prohibit them. These include:

- ✓ Fires for carrying out recognized agricultural practices.
- ✓ Fires for recreational purposes or for cooking food.
- ✓ Fires for training fire-fighting personnel, except acquired structure burns are prohibited.

What are the Alternatives?

The open burning ban will result in more solid waste. Alternatives, which result in the reuse or recycling of this waste, should be pursued, where feasible. Some alternatives are:

- ▶ Yard trimmings (leaves, brush, grass clippings, shrub and tree prunings, vegetative residuals, etc.). These have been banned from certain landfills effective September 1, 1996.
 - ✓ Composting, mulching, chipping, natural decomposition, etc. are recommended alternatives. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) brochure, “*Composting at Home in Georgia*” tells you more about composting yard trimmings. It is available on the Web at <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental>
 - ✓ Many municipal landfills and convenience centers accept yard trimmings from residents and process them into compost and mulch. Contact your local solid waste department to learn about local yard trimming recycling options. You can also call 1-800-Cleanup or log on to www.1800cleanup.org to find local information for yard trimming management and other recycling options.
 - ✓ For more information on yard trimmings management, contact the Department of Community Affairs, Office of Environmental Management at (404) 679-4940.
- ▶ Land clearing debris (trees, stumps, limbs, etc.).

Although it is recommended that land clearing debris be managed in the same manner as yard trimmings, it is important to note that these materials are not legally considered yard trimmings, and are therefore, not banned from landfills. Recommended alternatives include:

 - ✓ Chip, shred, or grind the debris on site and reuse as mulch, erosion control, or walk paths.
 - Several companies in Georgia offer mobile, on-site grinding services. These grinding services can be found in your local yellow pages, or in the DCA Recycling Markets Directory (go to <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental/> and click on “Georgia Recycling Markets” or check the attached Table 1, “*Land Clearing Debris - Recycling and Disposal Options*”).
 - For more information on re-use options, contact Stephanie Busch with the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division (P2AD) at (404) 651-5120.
 - ✓ Bury the debris on site in an inert landfill, in accordance with the rules for Solid Waste Management. A guidance document, “*Inert Waste Landfill Operations*” has been posted on <http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/enviro> (go to “Solid Waste Management” located under “Technical Guidance”).

- ✓ Haul the debris to a commercial or municipal processing/grinding/composting operation.
 - Processing/grinding/composting operations can be found in your local yellow pages, or check the attached Table 1, “*Land Clearing Debris - Recycling and Disposal Options*”.
- ✓ Haul the debris to a permit-by-rule inert waste landfill.
 - Inert landfills can be found in your local yellow pages, or check the attached Table 1, “*Land Clearing Debris - Recycling and Disposal Options*”.
- ✓ Haul the debris to a permitted construction and demolition (C&D) landfill.
 - The C&D landfills can be found in your local yellow pages, or check the attached Table 1, “*Land Clearing Debris - Recycling and Disposal Options*”.

Although it is not recommended, the debris may be accepted at some municipal solid waste landfills. For the location of these facilities, contact the city/county solid waste department or a private hauler.

For more information about the Open Burning Ban, contact the EPD’s Air Protection Branch at (404) 363-7000 or the appropriate EPD District office for a specific county as shown below. Questions about options for handling the solid waste can be directed to the EPD’s Land Protection Branch at (404) 362-2537.

Note: Your assistance in distributing this FACT SHEET to interested parties is greatly appreciated. A copy has also been posted at <http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/envIRON> (go to “Air” located under “Outreach”).

“Open Burning Ban” Counties and corresponding EPD District Office

County Name	EPD Contact Office
Bartow, Carroll, Chattooga, Cherokee, Cobb, Dawson, Douglas, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gordon, Haralson, Lumpkin, Paulding, Pickens, and Polk	Mountain District Office 16 Center Road, P.O. Box 3250 Cartersville, Georgia 30120 Phone: (770) 387-4900
Clayton, Coweta, DeKalb, Fayette, Gwinnett, Heard, Henry, Rockdale, and Spalding	Mountain District Atlanta Office 4244 International Parkway, Suite 114 Atlanta, Georgia 30354 Phone: (404) 362-2671
Banks, Barrow, Butts, Clarke, Hall, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Putnam and Walton	Northeast District Office 745 Gaines School Road Athens, Georgia 30605 Phone: (706) 369-6376
Jones, Lamar, Meriwether, Monroe, Pike, Troup and Upson	Middle District Office 2640 Shurling Drive Macon, Georgia 31211 Phone: (478) 751-6612

Table 1: Land Clearing Debris – Recycling and Disposal Options

County	Name	Address	Phone Number	Offers Mobile Grinding	Accepts Construction Lumber	Accepts Land-clearing Debris	Accepts Yard Trimmings	Commercial or Municipal Processing/Grinding/Composting Operation	Inert Landfill	C&D Landfill
Bartow	County Landfill	SR 394 Emerson	(770) 387-5030		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Cherokee	Swims -Dixie Landfill	SR 92 Woodstock	(770) 924-6110		✓	✓	✓			✓
Cobb	Cobb Mulch & Soil	1897 County Farm Road Marietta	(770) 720-1050			✓	✓			
Coweta	County Landfill	Ishman Ballard Road Newnan	(770) 253-2601							✓
DeKalb	Advanced Waste	Rogers La ke Road Lithonia	(404) 367-0909		✓	✓	✓			✓
	County Landfill	Seminole Road Ellenwood	(404) 294-2927							✓
	APAC/GA	Donzi Lane Atlanta	(404) 622-3389		✓	✓	✓			✓
	Day Energy Systems, Inc.	2875 Moorings Pkwy Lithonia	(770) 979-2390			✓	✓	✓		
	Phillips-Scales Road	Scales Road Lithonia	(770) 482-9600		✓	✓	✓			✓
	BFI-East DeKalb	Scales Road Lithonia	(770) 271-3575		✓					✓
Forsyth	JAE Landfill	250 Nichols Road Cumming	(770) 205-6300			✓	✓		✓	
Fulton	Chadwick Road Landfill	Chadwick Road Alpharetta	(770) 475-9868		✓	✓	✓			✓
	Hedge Hog	609 Bohannon Road Fairburn	(770) 306-7111		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Gwinnett	Consolidated Resource Recovery	800 Mitchell Road Norcross	(770) 246-0044			✓	✓	✓	✓	
	S&W	421 Thunder Road Buford	(770) 945-1771						✓	
	County Line Recycling	6321 Hwy. 29 Tucker	(770) 938-3994			✓	✓		✓	

County	Name	Address	Phone Number	Offers Mobile Grinding	Accepts Construction Lumber	Accepts Land-clearing Debris	Accepts Yard Trimmings	Commercial or Municipal Processing/Grinding/Composting Operation	Inert Landfill	C&D Landfill
Hall	Reliable Tire Service	Monroe Drive Gainesville								✓
Newton	Forest Tower	Lower River Road Porterdale	(770) 786-5808		✓	✓	✓			✓
Spalding	County Landfill	Shoal Creek Road Griffin	(770) 229-6425		✓	✓	✓			✓
Troup	County Landfill	SR 109 Mountville	(706) 883-1713		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Union	Georgia Mountain Grinding & Recycling	4236 Hayfield Road Blairsville	(706) 835-2000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓